

# On the Styles of Witcher Medallions

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[Witcher\\_Medallion](#).



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Due to their shared origin—as direct or indirect descendants of the Order of Witchers—most witcher schools adopted the use of a flat, circular medallion as a distinctive symbol. This design derives from the original medallion used by the Order, which initially featured a carved lily and, in later versions, was simplified to bear no symbol at all. Over time, each school replaced that emblem with its own, engraving its unique sigil onto the medallion's surface.

However, this convention has not been uniformly applied. Given the deeply personal and symbolic nature of the medallion for each witcher, numerous exceptions have been recorded in which its design deviates from the standard form. These variations may stem from individual stylistic choices, artistic trends of a particular era, or even institutional decisions. In some schools, for instance, the grandmaster deliberately introduced modifications to the medallion's design as a means of identifying the generation to which each graduate belonged.

As a result, up to eight known variants have been documented, each reflecting distinct historical, cultural, and functional contexts.

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## 1. Circular medallion with the animal face in profile

This variant is the most widespread design among the different schools. It consists of a circular medallion, on the obverse of which is engraved the face of the emblematic animal of the corresponding school, represented in profile and facing to the right or left, with its mouth open. This style seeks the immediate identification of the school of belonging, maintaining a sober and functional aesthetic.



The representation tends to follow a minimalist approach, limiting itself to the essential features that allow the recognition of the symbol without resorting to excessive ornamentation. However, slight regional variations in the stylization of the animal have been documented, influenced by local artistic currents or the visual traditions of the territory in which the school is located.

## 2. Head-shaped medallion

Considered the second most common variant throughout the history of the schools, this version features the head of the school's representative animal in frontal view, with open jaws. Unlike the standard model, its origin dates back to the early years following the dissolution of the Order of Witchers, when the founders of the five major schools sought to mark a clear symbolic break with the iconography of the defunct institution.



This design was intended to convey aggressiveness,



frontality and distinction. However, its practical application proved to be problematic: having a certain volume and prominent edges, the medallion could cause difficulties during close combat, either by unintentional snagging, indirect blows against the wearer himself when rolling, or by increasing the risk of injury if shaken forcefully.

As a consequence of these functional limitations, this model was progressively abandoned. Over time, the schools returned to a flatter design closer to that of the extinct Order, giving rise to the style considered the standard and more common.

### 3. Related medallion

The so-called “*related medallion*” is the third most widespread variant among the schools. This type of medallion retains the traditional circular and flat structure, but differs in that it replaces the official heraldic animal of the school with a species closely related to it, as a way of expressing a personal characteristic, distinctive trait or particular affinity of the witcher who wears it.

Rather than a break with the institutional symbol, it is a personal interpretation of it. The objective is to preserve the link with the school, but to endow it with an additional layer of individual identity. This phenomenon was especially common in the [School of the Cat](#), where many witchers chose to represent less conventional feline species on their medallions, such as the fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*), the guiña (*Leopardus guigna*) or the colocolo (*Leopardus colocolo*), the vindexardo (*Vindexaris Nilfgaardensis Rotundus*) among others.



Although these variants were still recognizable as belonging to the same symbolic tradition, they also served as a way of encoding information about the temperament, abilities or origin of the witcher in question.

### 4. Full-Body Medallion

Less common than the previous variants, the so-called full-body medallion

represents an evolution of the frontal volumetric model, though with a distinct aesthetic and symbolic intent. Rather than focusing solely on the head of the emblematic animal, this variant depicts the entire creature, either sculpted in relief or as a fully three-dimensional figure—typically in dynamic poses that suggest movement, aggression, or vigilance (such as attacking, defending, or prowling stances).



Due to the practical complications associated with its irregular volume and shape—similar to those that led to the abandonment of the head-shaped design—this variant failed to gain widespread acceptance among the five original schools that emerged following the fall of the Order.

The only notable exception was the [Viper School](#), where this model became the standard. There, the medallion took the form of a full-bodied viper in a crawling position, its body curved into an “S” shape pointing downward, symbolizing the silent fall of venom or the reptile’s lethal stealth.

Outside the Viper School, this variant was used sporadically by witchers who wished to personalize their medallion to the extreme, favoring symbolic self-expression over practical considerations in combat.

## 5. Circular Medallion with Frontal Head and Open Jaws (Generational Exaltation Style)

This type of medallion represents a deliberate fusion of the two foundational styles—the minimalist profile and the frontal volumetric designs—combined into a circular medallion featuring the animal’s head in a frontal position with its jaws open in a defiant pose. Its use was not based on personal preference or permanent institutional adoption, but rather as a commemorative symbolic practice adopted by several schools.



It served as a mark of distinction for those generations of witchers that had achieved exceptional survival rates during the Trials—particularly the mutation process—often surpassing a 70% success rate. The design functioned as a badge of honor, reflecting both the collective strength of the group and the school's pride in their training and resilience.

However, the design was gradually abandoned due to issues of visual identification: while symbolically powerful, the frontal perspective made it difficult to quickly recognize the animal depicted, especially for members of the general populace. This visual ambiguity often caused confusion and, in some cases, unnecessary suspicion or alarm, leading many schools to discontinue the model in favor of more easily identifiable emblems.

Only some schools, such as the School of the Lion, decided to keep it, although in their case, not as a symbol of exaltation of a specific generation, but as a general opposition to the school that had given rise to them through a schism.

## 6. Circular Medallion without Open Jaws

This variant, adopted primarily by second-generation schools and beyond—that is, those founded as a result of schisms or breakaways from preexisting schools—is characterized by a depiction of the symbolic animal in a neutral or calm posture, with its mouth closed or in a non-aggressive expression. The design remains flat and circular, staying within the visual tradition inherited from the extinct Order, but reinterpreted with a distinct symbolic meaning.

The most emblematic case is that of the [School of the Fox](#), whose founders were primarily former members expelled from the Schools of the Wolf and the Cat. On their medallion, the fox is depicted with a subtle smile, in a relaxed pose that contrasts sharply with the ferocity commonly found in the medallions of other schools. This design was intentional: a visual symbol of both institutional independence and ideological rupture due to a different approach of the witcher trade based on the core principle of "second chances".

Among the founding members that belonged to the School of the Cat in particular, the design served also as a conscious distancing from the coldness that, at the time, was prevalent within the Cat School.

## 7. Exile Medallion

The seventh variant, known as the Exile Medallion, was issued—or more accurately, imposed—upon witchers who were officially expelled from their school for serious offenses: violations of internal codes, acts of treason, criminal behavior, or political decisions made during times of heightened tension. This medallion not only marked the witcher's severance from their institutional lineage, but also served as a visible warning to other witchers and to anyone who might interact with them.

Formally, it reused the flat, circular, symbol-less medallion design that had been employed during the second phase of the Order, prior to its collapse. However, it was distinguished by a notable feature: on the reverse side, a discreet but permanent inscription would be engraved, either a serial number corresponding to the witcher's cohort or generation, or in some cases, the exact date of exile, along with a symbol indicating the cause of their expulsion.

The medallion served a dual purpose: first, to erase any visible affiliation with a particular school; and second, to maintain a coded record that could be accessed by members of other schools or key figures within the broader witcher structure, including mages (or their equivalents) affiliated with the different schools. While some exiled witchers chose to melt down or destroy the medallion, it was not uncommon for others to keep it—modified, filed down, or transformed—as a silent testament to their fall. Moreover, despite its disgraceful appearance, the medallion retained its functional properties in combat, allowing them—shamefully, perhaps—to survive another day in their profession.

## 8. Ultrapersonalized Medallion

This final and extremely rare variant is known as the ultrapersonalized medallion, representing the highest degree of symbolic dissociation between a witcher and the school in which they were trained. In such cases, the witcher deliberately chose not to use their school's heraldic emblem or any related variation, instead replacing it with an animal or symbol entirely unrelated to their institutional lineage.

The motivations behind this decision were deeply personal and varied greatly across the few documented instances. In some cases, it stemmed from

philosophical or spiritual convictions; in others, from trauma linked to the school of origin, or simply from a desire to assert individual identity above all formal affiliations. Some did it as an act of silent protest; others, as an aesthetic statement or in alignment with particular beliefs.

Due to their rarity, these medallions follow no established pattern.

## Image Credits

- Personal Cat medallion by u/Hustinettenlord
- Viper Medallion by GeorgeSilverJewelry
- Ultrapersonalized medallion by Netflix´s The Witcher

## Trivia

- This article aims to justify how the medallion styles in the books, games, and Netflix series can coexist.



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